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NATIVE
LOUISIANA IRISES

June 1, 1932



Iris fulva, the “red” iris. This species illustrates the crestless type of iris. It is a very hardy profuse flowering species with many color varieties, among them brick red, salmon, coppery, henna, Indian red, scarlet, crimson, garnet red, garnet brown, old rose, rosy apricot, peach, rose petal pink, golden yellow and chrome yellow. Every hybridizer should have a variety of these in his collection.

Iris vinicolor, the wine colored iris, one of the single crested forms. In addition to its beautiful wine purple color with a bright yellow crest, this iris exhibits some very attractive structural qualities. The crest is strong, supporting the large, graceful, wavy sepals which spread outward, while the petals are bent upward.



Iris giganteaerulea, the flower of the giant blue iris. This illustrates the spreading type of crest or signal patch. In this species, a white zone separates the yellow crest region from the blue of the sepal blade. This species and its tall relatives are at their best in very moist soil as when grown in a bog garden.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We submit below our list of offerings in native Louisiana Irises for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 1932. A few additional species, which can be supplied only in small quantities, are not listed, but we solicit correspondence from those desiring species or varieties not mentioned in this publication.

Nomenclature follows the "Botanical Interpretation of the Iridaceous Plants of the Gulf States" by John K. Small and Edward J. Alexander, in Contributions from the New York Botanical Garden No. 327, 1931. One new and quite distinct form has come to light which we are tentatively naming *Iris imperialis* (I-17). A number of other new varieties we are simply listing as color phases as they are not structurally distinct from the type forms listed by Small and Alexander.

All species of iris listed by us have been tried and grown under cultivation and, except for items L-140 to L-143, only cultivated stock is shipped.

TERMS

Our prices are net, cash in advance, F. O. B. New Orleans, and include all packing charges, and shipping cans and crates. To avoid delay, send cash with order including a deposit sufficient to cover prepaid transportation. Any surplus will be returned or credited. No shipments are sent C. O. D. unless a deposit is made equal to 25% of the amount of the order. References: The Whitney Bank, New Orleans: The Commercial Agencies. Ask your bank to look us up. We have been in business since 1915.



Native Irises are at their best in mass plantings.

WATER IRIS CULTURE

All native water irises are naturally hardy plants for they grow best in nature at or near the water line along swamps and streams where they are subjected alternately to floods and drouths. As their roots are at or near the surface, they must naturally be able to stand freezing without harm. They do equally well under cultivation from Canada to the shores of the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

While all species listed can be cultivated in almost any type of garden soil provided they have a reasonable amount of water during the growing period in the spring, there is some selectivity among the different species. Therefore, where there is some choice of location, or where wild places are to be stocked, the following knowledge is helpful.

Species of the group **Versicolores** show a preference for strongly acid soils, although the form **shrevei** has adapted itself to less acid conditions. Species of the group **Hexagonae**, on the other hand, show a preference for non-acid soils. All the other species stand somewhat intermediate between these extremes, the reds (group **Fulvae** and related forms) as a rule showing a preference for less acid conditions than the blues (**Giganticaerulea**) and related forms).

As regards humidity or wetness of the soil, color is an excellent guide in the tall stalked species, for the blues, such as **Giganticaerulea** and the related albinos, often live permanently in water, while the reds often live in permanently dry situations. Between these extremes, the vinicolors and other red-violet forms prefer intermediate situations. In the shorter stalked species, the group **Versicolores** requires more moisture than the group **Hexagonae**.

While water iris are strictly fresh water plants, the tall blues (**Giganticaerulea** and relatives) can venture nearer to the costal brackish marshes than any other groups. All native irises will grow in sun or shade. However, we recommend either partial shade or beneath deciduous trees so they will have winter sun and summer shade.

Iris have very few natural enemies or diseases. Some of the caterpillars feed on the leaves, but they usually bloom before the caterpillars are out and the leaves die down anyhow during the hot part of the summer. Sow bugs and pill bugs will eat the root stock if exposed on dry land, so in such places they should be covered with sand or loamy soil, but in places too wet for sow bugs, this is not necessary and they make wonderful progress with exposed root stock.

Dry Land Culture: For dry land cultivation, the following method has been adopted by us after much experimentation. In the area selected for planting, after spading, dig furrows or shallow rounded holes about four to eight inches in depth. Lay the roots on the bottom and cover not over three

inches with a mixture of five parts fine sand and one part peat. Thus they lie in the furrows where the moisture is gathered instead of on the hills. If rainfall is scant, water frequently during the growing periods in the spring and fall. In cold climates, the leafy growth dies down in the winter and in hot dry climates it dies down in the summer. During such dormant periods it is a good plan to cover them with a mulch of straw or peat. After two years or more, if the rootstock becomes crowded, thin it out and replant the pieces removed in another location prepared as above. Branching of the rootstock is encouraged by frequent clipping of the leaves after the blooming season, as one would trim a hedge. This should not be done in the spring as it will prevent profuse blooming. Fertilizer, other than the peat, is not necessary except in very poor soils. Marsh or swamp humus is as good or better than commercial fertilizers.

Iris are not harmed by any summer plants with tender roots whose leafy growth dies down in the fall and does not appear in the spring until after the iris blooming season is over. These may take the place of the summer mulch except under intense cultivation. Thus in ordinary garden culture, hardy summer or early fall blooming flowers of many types can be planted on the hills between the shallow iris furrows giving a floral picture over a long period of the year. Planting may be done at any season, but if transplanted during the active periods it is best to clip the leaves, especially on the older plants. Our shipments are prepared in that manner so they can be set out as received. Do not be discouraged if the leafy growth withers altogether after transplanting, especially in the summer, for, as with bulbous plants, this is a normal condition and the dormant rootstock will revive and start new growth with arrival of cool weather or the rainy season.

Water iris can be planted in boxes or tubs in the water garden, with bog plants at the edge of a pool, or around the border outside of the pool proper. If planted in damp soil at the edge of a pond, stream or ditch, or in a ravine, the rootstock should simply be pushed into the soft wet earth and barely covered. In such a place no peat or fertilizer of any kind is required and it is only necessary to thin out excessive vegetation until the iris gets a start.

NAMED SPECIES AND VARIETIES OF NATIVE LOUISIANA IRISES

A. IRISES WITH RELATIVELY BROAD LEAVES WHICH EQUAL OR EXCEED THE FLOWER STALKS

Group Versicolores

- I-1 **Iris virginica.** Light violet or lavender with dark purple etchings. Crest zone green gold surrounded by a whitish zone. Leaves broad. Shows a preference for sandy acid soils.....\$.50 each, \$3.00 per doz.
- I-2 **Iris shrevei.** Flower similar to **virginica**. Leaves very tall and broad. Shows a preference for less acid or non-acid soils.....\$.75 each, \$4.50 per doz.

Group Hexagonae.

- I-3 **Iris mississippiensis.** Light violet blue or blue. Crest golden yellow surrounded by a white zone veined with violet. Prefers non-acid soils. The best native flag for dry situations. Because of its shorter leaves and flower stalks this makes an excellent border species.....\$.50 each, \$3.00 per doz.

B. IRISES WITH RELATIVELY NARROW LEAVES AND TALL FLOWER STALKS

Group Fulvae. (Uniform color, no crest).

- I-4 **Iris fulva.** Brick red.....\$.50 each, \$3.00 per doz.
- I-5 **Iris fulva.** Rosy apricot..... .75 each, 4.50 per doz.
- I-6 **Iris fulva.** Indian red..... .75 each, 4.50 per doz.
- I-7 **Iris fulva.** Deep garnet red..... .75 each, 4.50 per doz.
- I-8 **Iris fulva.** Garnet brown..... .75 each, 4.50 per doz.
- I-9 **Iris fulva.** Peach blush..... 1.00 each, 6.00 per doz.
- I-10 **Iris fulva.** Rose petal pink..... 1.00 each, 6.00 per doz.
- I-11 **Iris fulva.** Golden glow. A rich golden yellow, the only yellow native iris.....\$25.00 each

Group Unicristata. (Single crest).

- I-12 **Iris fulvaurea.** Crimson scarlet, crest yellow.....\$1.50 each, \$9.00 per doz.
- I-13 **Iris fulvaurea.** Old rose, crest yellow..... 1.50 each, 9.00 per doz.
- I-14 **Iris fulvaurea.** Deep garnet red, crest yellow..... 2.00 each, 12.00 per doz.
- I-15 **Iris viridivinea.** Rich reddish purple..... 1.00 each, 6.00 per doz.
- I-16 **Iris violipurpurea.** Violet purple, crest yellow..... 2.00 each, 12.00 per doz.

- I-17 **Iris imperialis**. Rich imperial purple. Crest vatican purple with small golden I-shaped bar. This is one of our discoveries and one of the most beautiful of all irises..... 2.50 each, 15.00 per doz.
- I-18 **Iris vinicolor**. Wine colored iris (rich vinaceous purple)..... 2.00 each, 12.00 per doz.
- I-19 **Iris miraculosa**. An exquisite blue toned white iris. 2.00 each, 12.00 per doz.

Group Bicuristata (Double crest).

- I-20 **Iris rosiflora**. Rosy pink with double yellow crest.\$4.00 each, \$32.00 per doz.

Group Lancicristata (Lance-shaped crest).

- I-21 **Iris fourchiana**. Royal purple. Crest yellow.....\$2.50 each, \$15.00 per doz.
- I-22 **Iris viridis**. Light violet with a golden lance-shaped crest..... 4.00 each, 24.00 per doz.
- I-23 **Iris citriviola**. Royal purple with lemon lance-shaped crest. 4.00 each, 24.00 per doz.

Group Coronicristata (Crown-shaped crest zone).

- I-24 **Iris chrysophoenicia**. Violet purple with a broad golden crest zone.....\$3.00 each, \$18.00 per doz.
- I-25 **Iris callilopha**. Magenta with a broad golden crest zone..... 3.00 each, 18.00 per doz.

Group Radicristata (Radiating crest zone).

- I-26 **Iris giganteaerulea**. Violet blue. Crest yellow surrounded by a white zone.....\$1.00 each, \$ 6.00 per doz.
- I-27 **Iris giganteaerulea**. True blue. Crest yellow. This is the purest blue we have discovered to date. 2.50 each, 15.00 per doz.
- I-28 **Iris giganteaerulea alba**. Lily white. Crest yellow. 5.00 each, 40.00 per doz.
- I-29 **Iris elephantina**. Ivory white with golden crest. This is one of our rarest and most beautiful irises.5.00 each 40.00 per doz.

INTRODUCED WATER IRISES

- I-30 **Iris pseudacorus.** Yellow water flag. As native yellow flags are very rare, we offer this hardy introduced species for those who wish to complete a color scheme in their gardens or pools.....\$.50 each, \$2.50 per doz.

COLLECTIONS OF NAMED WATER IRIS

Rainbow collection, an all color collection consisting of one each of brick red (I-4), yellow (I-30), light blue (I-26), violet blue (I-26), reddish purple (I-15), and lavender (I-1). Price separately \$4.25, collection price.....\$3.00

American flag trio, consisting of one each of red (I-6), white (I-28), and blue (I-27). This is an all quality trio of choice tall species. List price if purchased separately, \$8.25, collection price.....\$6.25

Regal collection, an all quality collection consisting of many of the finest native irises discovered to date; one each of yellow toned white (I-29), blue toned white (I-19), peach blush (I-9), deep garnet (I-7), crimson scarlet (I-12), wine colored (I-18), violet (I-16), royal purple (I-21), imperial purple (I-17), blue (I-3). Priced separately \$19.25, collection price.....\$15.00

UNNAMED WILD IRISES FOR MASS PLANTING

(While color or species cannot be guaranteed in wild stock, we ship only free flowering species with large handsome flowers).

- L-140 **Versicolor types.** Broad leaves, medium flower stalks, lavender flowers. The best flags for bogs or other acid soils.....\$15.00 per hundred
- L-141 **Fulvae types.** Tall stalked reds. The best flags for clayey soils.....\$17.50 per hundred
- L-142 **Radicristata types.** Tall stalked violet blues. The best flags for marshy places.....\$20.00 per hundred
- L-143 **Hexagonae types.** Short stalked blues. The best flags for non-acid silt or loamy soils and dry situations.....\$20.00 per hundred